

graduate this June. It took me 31 years to get to this point in my life, so I thank God that there was a program available to me. Although my circumstances are different than some of my classmates, we're all there for the same reasons, to get our G.E.D. or better yet our diploma. Senator as far as I'm concerned, I wanted this very badly, but I have been married 27 years, have two children one of which also graduates this year from Penn. I never had to work so my education wasn't the top on my list. Because my husband worked and took care of us and the house. But most of the kids in the program need this educational program to continue to grow into productive adults. Our counselors and teachers are the best, they work very hard to keep things going well at school. These programs need to keep going and I know that you will do your best to keep it going.

Now to get to the second reason I'm writing to you. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to my graduation on June 14 at 7:30 p.m. It will take place at Newark High School. Myself and I know all the other students and staff would be honored to have you there. I know you are a very, very busy man but if you could find it in your heart and schedule to make it, I would be happy to have you there.

Sincerely,

MRS. JUDI ROBINSON.

Mr. President, the reason I read that into the RECORD is I do not think we should lose sight of the fact that there are thousands and thousands of women and men like Judi Robinson who are going back to try to get the basic education that for whatever reasons they did not get when they were children. I think our reluctance to put as much emphasis on the educational needs in this country and the Federal responsibility to participate in that is a serious mistake. I am sure all of my colleagues, and I know the Senator in the chair, the Senator from Colorado, like everyone else in here, shares a sense of pride when there is someone in their State like Judi Robinson who goes through that effort.

I remember discussing with my friend from Colorado how his mother went back and her significant educational accomplishments and what she has done. I just thought it worthwhile to let people know that there are a lot of people like Judi Robinson still fighting hard, who still have faith in this operation, still have faith in the system, and still think they can better themselves through education.

I thank the Chair for this time and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I ask unanimous consent that I may be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair.

NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I compliment the Labor and Human Resources Committee for reporting out the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to be Surgeon General of the United States.

Earlier this morning, the committee met and by a 9-to-7 vote recommended the confirmation of Dr. Foster for Surgeon General. Two Republicans joined with seven Democrats in favoring his nomination and thereby bringing the nomination to the floor.

It is my hope that we will take up Dr. Foster in this Chamber. It is my sense that there are sufficient votes to bring Dr. Foster to a vote in the face of what has been announced to be a prospective filibuster. There is at least one Senator on the committee as reported who favors bringing Dr. Foster to a vote even though that Senator voted against him in committee.

I had occasion to meet with Dr. Foster early on, and at that time I was convinced that the sole issue was the issue of whether Dr. Foster should be disqualified from being Surgeon General because he had performed abortions, a medical procedure which is legal and authorized by the U.S. Constitution. It seemed to me at that time that all the other matters which were brought up were red herrings, and that real opposition to Dr. Foster lay in the fact that he had performed abortions, a procedure authorized by the Constitution of the United States.

I said on the Senate floor early on that Dr. Foster was entitled to be heard by the committee, entitled to have his day in court, so to speak, in this Chamber for a vote, both out of fairness to Dr. Foster as an individual and really as a sign that nobody would be railroaded out of this town without having a day in court, a chance to have an up-or-down vote in the Senate.

There is a very important precedent beyond Dr. Foster as an individual as to what he is entitled to as a matter of fairness and that is to others who may be interested in coming to Washington, tempted to come to Washington to perform public service. And many would be discouraged if Dr. Henry Foster would not be entitled to fair treatment by the Senate of the United States.

I thought that reasons given by our colleague, Senator FRIST, in supporting Dr. Foster's nomination were very important; that Senator FRIST, a physician himself, emphasized Dr. Foster's commitment to try to combat teenage pregnancy, and that may be the No. 1 social problem in America today. If that can be brought under control, then there is no better person to try to do that than the Surgeon General of the United States. And also Dr. Foster's commitment to press for abstinence and to press for family values; those are positions which I think are

very appropriate for the Surgeon General.

So Dr. Foster has cleared a very significant hurdle in the affirmative vote of the Labor and Human Resources Committee. Some predicted he would never get that far.

From what I sense, the climate in our body is to favor his nomination coming to the floor for a vote. I think a filibuster will be defeated and I think ultimately Dr. Foster will be confirmed. That is a very positive sign of respect for the laws of the United States, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, that a woman does have a right to choose, that a nominee like Dr. Foster is not disqualified because he performed a medical procedure, albeit abortion, authorized by the Constitution, and that men and women of character and good will can come to this town and get a fair hearing and perform an important public service.

I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

COMPREHENSIVE TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. LIEBERMAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the bill before the Senate at this time, S. 735, the Comprehensive Terrorism Prevention Act of 1995.

Mr. President, let me say first how pleased I am that the leadership of both parties has reached agreement on so much in this bill and met President Clinton's challenge to reach a prompt and bipartisan consensus on counterterrorism legislation in the aftermath of the tragedy in Oklahoma City.

Most of the key provisions of the President's counterterrorism bill, offered earlier in the year by Senator BIDEN and others, are included in the measure before us. And I thank the majority leadership of the committee for doing so. But, as Senator BIDEN mentioned last night, there are a few provisions that have not been included.

That is why this morning I will offer two amendments which would restore two provisions from the original bill to this genuinely bipartisan effort, and I am hopeful that there is an opportunity here for bipartisan support for these two law enforcement measures, as well.

Mr. President, in my view, and in the view of those I have spoken to in the Federal and State law enforcement communities who are involved in the daily, difficult business of pursuing terrorists, these two provisions, which would increase law enforcement's capacity to be involved in surveillance through wiretapping of terrorists, would be extremely helpful to the law enforcement community's efforts to penetrate the highly secretive world of